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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 83
Diplomatic protection

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 7 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring the following to your attention.

As you are aware, on 5 July 1982, during the invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of Beirut by the Israeli regime, three members of the staff of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, namely Seyyed Mohsen Mousavi (Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy), Ahmad Motevaselian (Military Attaché of the Embassy) and Taghi Rastegar Moghadam (a technician from the Embassy), as well as an Iranian journalist, Kazem Akhavan from the Islamic Republic News Agency, were abducted in Lebanon while returning, by a diplomatic vehicle, from Syria to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in west Beirut.

While travelling on the coastal road between Tripoli and Beirut, the said Iranian officials were stopped and detained, at Barbareh checkpoint in Madfoon area, 40 km north of Beirut, in violation of the most basic provisions governing diplomatic immunities and in flagrant contempt of the most fundamental principles of international law, by Christian paramilitary forces named Lebanese Forces (Alghovat-Al-Lobnanieh) who were then under the control and command of the Israeli regime's army. .

There are various news reports and numerous signs well indicating that the said Iranian officials were immediately handed over to the Israeli military forces after their abduction, as Beirut was occupied by the Israeli regime at the time. They were subsequently taken to Israeli prisons and have been since then under the captivity of the Israeli regime. This illegal and inhumane act is against the fundamental international rules and principles, and also contravenes numerous United Nations resolutions, including resolutions in which the General Assembly, inter alia, "strongly condemns acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives" and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified, and "urges States to take all appropriate measures at the national and international levels to prevent any acts of violence against the missions, representatives and

officials, including during a period of armed conflict", and also "urges all States to ensure that such acts of violence are fully investigated with a view to bringing offenders to justice".

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the strong view and belief that the Israeli regime is responsible for this abduction and for the fate of the said Iranian diplomats and journalist. No credible piece of evidence has ever been presented to indicate the martyrdom of the said Iranian officials to date. To the contrary, various evidences, including the assertions by some of those who have been in Israeli prisons or have visited the said prisons suggest that they are still alive and are in the hands of the Israeli regime.

Twenty-six long years have passed since this outrageous abduction. And throughout all these years, and in the absence of any meaningful action by the United Nations to secure their release, the said Iranian diplomats and journalist have been languishing in Israeli prisons, and their families have been enduring enormous pain and suffering in anguish and disillusionment. We expect the United Nations to address this grave illegal act that undermines some of the most basic principles on which international relations are based and operate. The Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the Security Council and the Secretary-General to live up to their responsibilities under the United Nations Charter without further delay by reacting to the illegal abduction and continued unlawful detention of the Iranian diplomats and journalist by the Israeli regime, and by helping to secure their safe and immediate release.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/62/900

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 77
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 1 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you with reference to the ninth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

Under item 4 of the agenda for that meeting, an analysis of progress made on the "assessment of assessments" of the state of the marine environment, provided for in General Assembly resolution 60/30, was carried out on 26 June 2008.

The representatives of the Ad Hoc Steering Group (see para. 92 of resolution 60/30) and the United Nations Environment Programme were responsible for submitting the progress report. They presented an unnumbered document entitled "Assessment of Assessments-Progress Report-20 June 2008", annex B of which included a table of ocean regions, with the "South West Atlantic Ocean" listed under number 19. The United Kingdom was included among the coastal States for this region, inferring a reference to the Malvinas Islands.

The Argentine Republic rejects the content of the document in question and, in particular, the attempt made by its authors to consider the Malvinas Islands as a possession of the United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom as a coastal State in the South Atlantic.

The Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the Argentine national territory and, being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries which is recognized by a number of international organizations.

In that connection, the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, recognizing the existence of a sovereignty dispute relating to the Malvinas Islands and urging the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the dispute.

08-41713 (E) 110708 110708

The Special Committee on Decolonization, for its part, has made repeated statements to the same effect, most recently in the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008. The General Assembly of the Organization of American States also adopted a new declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands, worded in similar terms, on 3 June 2008.

The Argentine Republic requests that all bodies involved in the "assessment of assessments" of the state of the marine environment pursuant to section XI of General Assembly resolution 60/30 take due account of the above.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present document under item 77 of the agenda of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/62/901

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda items 21, 35, 48, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 108, 109 and 116

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Questions relating to information

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Information and communication technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the Isla Margarita Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Promotion of an Objective Voice from the South in the Face of the Current Trends in the Fields of Information and Communications, as adopted by the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Isla Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 2 to 4 July 2008 (see annexes).

08-41808 (E) 150708

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21, 35, 48, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 108, 109 and 116.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex I to the letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Isla Margarita Declaration on the Promotion of an Objective Voice from the South in the Face of the Current Trends in the Fields of Information and Communications

Introduction

1. The Seventh Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VII) was held on Isla Margarita (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), 2-4 July 2008, under the theme "Challenges and proposals for the objective dissemination of the voice of the South in the face of the current trends in the fields of information and communications".

2. COMINAC VII took place three years after the fruitful Malaysian chairmanship of NAM and of the organization of COMINAC VI in Kuala Lumpur, 19-22 November 2005, where the decision was made to hold COMINAC VII. This decision was later endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of its 14th Summit Conference.

Current trends in the fields of information and communications

3. The Ministers reviewed the global trends and developments in information and communication and noted that the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries continues unabated.

4. Noting that the continued situation of lopsided information places the vast majority of mankind at a disadvantage, the Ministers reaffirmed the need for urgent redress of the imbalances.

5. The Ministers *advocated* the implementation of concrete strategies and actions that boost cooperation among Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries with regards to information and communications processes.

6. The Ministers noted that decreasing costs of communications and easy access to Internet services now afforded Member Countries an unprecedented opportunity to increase information linkages among them. Therefore, the Ministers urged all Member Countries to take advantage of the advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) to forge these links.

7. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to make effective use of media and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with a view to contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, to combat HIV-/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and development of global partnership for development for the attainment of a more peaceful just and prosperous world.

8. The Ministers acknowledged that to fully harness ICT in developing countries, it is essential to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and exclusion that prevent developing countries from joining and fully-participating in the Information Society.

9. The Ministers agreed that member countries should work to promote the inclusion of local heritage in their respective ICTs strategies.

10. The Ministers *expressed* their serious concern at the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries. In this regard, they *called for* the adoption of adequate measures that can bridge this gap and develop programs for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those from developing countries who risk being left behind and excluded from this process.

11. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the imposition of unilateral and coercive measures that violate international law and the United Nations Charter, prevent the full achievement of social and economic development of the people living in the affected countries and undermine the wellbeing of their citizens, while discouraging, precluding and impeding their participation in the international market of ICT services, in particular in terms of access to, development and use of software, hardware and networks, including the Internet.

12. The Ministers assessed the performance of Member Countries in the field of information and communication during the last nine years and noted their continuing and increasing efforts to bring about balanced and free flow of information.

13. The Ministers acknowledged the increased efforts being made by some Member Countries and other developing nations to develop their information and communication networks. In this regard, they welcomed TELESUR as a means to promote an objective voice of our countries of the South.

14. Welcoming all the media projects of the regions of the South, the Ministers decided, on a priority basis, to prepare a list of all institutions of developing countries that contribute to the promotion of South-South flow of information. In this regard, they entrusted the Chairman of COMINAC to contact member countries and to prepare the list, as well as to initiate contacts with those organizations with the aim of promoting further cooperation among them.

15. The Ministers reiterated their call for greater investments in the relevant ICT according to the specific situation and capacity of each country in efforts to move forward the interests of the respective countries as well as the interests of the Member Countries as a whole.

16. The Ministers acknowledged the influence and growing role of media in modern public information and communication processes and agreed to further encourage private practitioners to complement the information and communication efforts of government agencies within the context of social responsibility.

The struggle for a New Information and Communications World Order

17. The Ministers observed that the long history of the struggle for a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO), notwithstanding the salient objectives are yet to be realised.

18. The Ministers reaffirmed their common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

19. The Ministers *regretted* the continued imbalances and inequalities in the field of international information and communications. They highlighted the serious consequences that this negative situation has on NAM members and recommended to counter this problem through relevant international organizations and agencies such as ITU, UNESCO, etc; which should consider this issue and come out with appropriate strategies to reduce these imbalances and inequalities.

20. The Ministers recognized the importance of coordinated NAM efforts in issues related to communication and information at the United Nations and relevant international organizations and agencies including UNESCO. They welcomed the reactivation of NAM at UNESCO and concurred on the need to establish and/or further strengthen the mechanisms for the coordination of positions at other UNESCO instances, in particular the Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC).

21. The Ministers *reiterated* their support to the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as adopted at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, in particular its provisions relative to development. They also *stressed* the importance of effective participation of an equitable and effective representation of developing countries in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society, including the Internet Governance Forum and Increased Cooperation. The Ministers further underlined the provisions related to the creation and consolidation of an enabling environment in which sustainable, pluralistic and professional media and infrastructure could flourish in developing countries.

22. The Ministers expressed concern that developing countries are still impoverished, not only materially and economically, but in terms of equitable endowments and opportunities in the field of global information and communication.

23. The Ministers agreed to reduce dependence on information from industrialised nations on Member Countries by initiating and supporting co-operative activities that will augment the new order, through fresh and dynamic approaches to programming, content and networking in the media systems of Member Countries and other developing countries.

24. The Ministers noted the effects of an inequitable global economic system which severely impede the ability of Member Countries to realise their optimum potentials for economic growth and development. They noted the adverse implications of the economic constraint in seeking to evolve more effective strategies for developing efficient and independent information networks that will facilitate the preservation and promotion of national interests.

25. The Ministers declared that the imbalances and inequalities found in global trade and the debt burden still constitute monumental hindrances to genuine social, economic and political progress in developing nations of the world. Accordingly, together with reaffirming their own commitment towards achieving economic and social progress, they called for urgent and sustained international action to create the necessary conditions for each nation to realise their own potential and ensure genuine global peaceful co-existence.

26. The Ministers called for increased investments in human capital and material resources in the area of information and communication and noted that some Member Countries are moving in that direction.

27. The Ministers *insisted* on the need for training in ICTs in order to have the professionals who can improve the level and quality of these sectors and facilitate the dissemination of information and communications to counter the ever-increasing problems of a globalized world. They *underscored* the importance of effective measures to stem the exodus of these professionals, and the brain drain by industrialized powers, which have harmful effects on the strategies to develop and improve human resources in developing countries.

28. The Ministers proposed that training programmes be organised, both at institutions of higher learning and by professional journalism institutes, to upgrade the skills of journalists in the coverage of issues of common interest, as well as issues of specific interest to NAM member countries and promoting their tourist destinations.

29. The Ministers also urged these institutions of higher learning and professional journalism institutes, to realise the importance of their contribution towards development and to continue to upgrade the skills of media practitioners so that their reports contribute to the development of their countries.

30. The Ministers *stressed* the need that information and communications strategies be deeply rooted in historical and cultural processes and *made an urgent appeal* to the media in developed countries so that their opinions, models and perspectives respect those from the developing countries thus ensuring the continuation of the dialogue among civilizations.

31. In this regard, they welcomed the Alliance of Civilizations efforts to address the challenge of improving cross-cultural and inter-religious understanding and devising concrete tools to respond to emerging crises, such as a Rapid Response Media Mechanism to provide a platform for voices that can help reduce tensions.

32. They expressed concern about the orchestrated smear campaigns which developing countries have suffered from biased and distorted Western media reports, the Ministers re-emphasised the need for sustained efforts by the mechanisms charged with the dissemination of news and information among and about Member Countries to counter this threat. In this regard, they expressed deep concern at the growing campaigns aimed at the defamation of religions.

33. The Ministers *recognized* the role played by the Broadcasting Organization of the Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC), as a first attempt to disseminate information over the radio and television among NAM members and to the world, and *stressed* on the need to improve its functioning.

34. The Ministers *also recognized and expressed their appreciation to* Malaysia for launching and supporting the NAM News Network (NNN), since its inception in 2005 and agreed that NNN continues with its present infrastructure and headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

35. The Ministers opposed the use of the media as a tool for hostile propaganda against developing countries which are aimed at destabilising their Governments. They called for an immediate cessation of the radio electronic aggression against NAM Member Countries as it is an action contrary to the principles of international law. They reaffirmed that the radio electronic frequencies spectrum must be secured in favour of public interest and in accordance with the principle of legality. The Ministers *expressed their support in particular* to the decision of the latest International Conference on Radio Communications of the International Telecommunications Union on this subject.

36. The Ministers expressed their full support to the Radio Rules (RR) of the International Telecommunications Union on this subject, recalling that these RR are an international treaty, aimed to harmonize the pacific use of radio electric spectrum among countries.

37. In order to serve as means to promote peace and understanding among countries, the Ministers encouraged media to respect the existing codes of conduct and professional ethics.

38. The Ministers agreed that the NAM should promote professional standards and codes of ethics for the media in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law.

39. The Ministers expressed their determination to promote strategies of use and access of ICT addressed to children and teenagers, recognizing its benefits and advising that cyber crime threatens their rights, integrity and security, through pornography and sexual exploitation of this vulnerable segment of the population.

40. The Ministers reiterated their profound condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the position adopted by NAM in its 14th Summit, held in Havana; and appreciated the profound role of media in supporting the international efforts to combat terrorism. They regretted the continued tendency of some western media in stereotyping and profiling perpetrators of terrorist acts as Muslims.

41. The Ministers *emphasized* that self-reliance and commitment to South-South cooperation should be intensified to attain a higher level of activities in order to build and/or strengthen the existing capacities and infrastructure in the field of information and communications both at the national level and within the Non-Aligned Movement. To that end, they encouraged that NAM members render assistance and share expertise and experience among themselves.

42. For the effective promotion and implementation of cooperation among NAM countries in the fields of information and communications, the Ministers *agreed on* the adoption of the *Isla Margarita Programme of*

Action on the Promotion of an Objective Voice from the South in the Face of the Current Trends in the Fields of Information and Communications.

43. Through the aforementioned Programme of Action, the Ministers *decided* to follow up and improve the existing mechanisms in the framework of COMINAC.

Vote of thanks

44. The Ministers *praised* the Government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the excellent organization of this Conference and the warm hospitality accorded to them during their stay in the paradise-like Isla Margarita and they *thanked* them for that.

Isla Margarita (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
4 July 2008

Annex II to the letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Isla Margarita Programme of Action on the Promotion of an Objective Voice from the South in the Face of the Current Trends in the Fields of Information and Communications

Introduction

The Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries, gathered during the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VII) held in Isla Margarita (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), 2-4 July 2008;

Driven by the principles and challenges addressed in the Isla Margarita Declaration;

Agreed on the adoption of the following Programme of Action:

On the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC)

1. ***Revitalize*** the functioning of BONAC, including its enlargement and serving as a NAM media network that acts as an instrument to enable the exchange of radio and TV programs among NAM members.

2. ***Explore,*** to that end, the feasibility, including the identification of the necessary technical and financial resources, to establish the NAM Media Network through a virtual radio and TV functioning on servers located in each of the regions NAM countries are from and based on a programming policy that respects the principles and purposes of NAM, as well as existing provisions relative to Internet broadcasting.

3. ***Consider*** the South-South Information Gateway (SSIG) as a model for the exchange of radio and television programmes.

On the NAM News Network (NNN)

1. ***Decide*** that NNN should maintain a constant information flow towards the NAM Media Network.

2. ***Decide*** that NNN shall report to COMINAC VIII on its activities.

On the promotion of TELESUR

1. ***Use*** TELESUR as a means to promote an objective voice of our countries of the South through, inter alia, the following ideas and modalities:

   i. Providing an objective window into the way of life in NAM countries, through TELESUR programming;
   ii. Film and broadcast through TELESUR various programs of series of reports on the origin and evolution of NAM, its founding fathers, its Summit Conferences and other milestones in the history of the Movement;
   iii. Establish a historic and cultural program in each NAM country that shows the cultural diversity of NAM members. The contributions to these programs shall count on the support and cooperation of each of the countries object of these reports. (Colombia reserves)

On other issues of interest for the NAM

1. ***Work*** closely with the international community to increase technology transfer, including ICTs, and to adopt policies and programs allowing developing countries to place technology at the service of development through, inter alia, technical cooperation, as well as building scientific and technical capacities to bridge the existing digital divide and development gap.

2. ***Enhance*** the existing multilateral mechanisms in assisting all countries, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructures and build ICT services that are viable and competitive at the national and international levels.

3. ***Support*** the Digital Solidarity Fund set up in Geneva as an innovative and voluntary financial mechanism, and explore other new voluntary sources for increasing contributions to this Fund.

4. ***Increase*** cooperation to promote a New World Information Order, by taking new initiatives with special emphasis on improving the contents of the programs as well as the existing communication network systems of NAM members and those of other developing countries.

5. ***Undertake*** a reflection on norms and values for the emerging Information and knowledge Society.

6. ***Invest*** in the training of human resources as well as in improving and upgrading of technologies in the area of information and communication, with a view to meet the challenges of a globalized world.

7. ***Utilize*** current mechanisms of disseminating information to help NAM countries create an enabling environment not only to retain but also attract talents and/or professionals in the field of information and communications.

8. ***Organize*** training programs, both in higher education institutions and journalism schools, to develop appropriate tools for in-depth analysis and research on issues of common and specific interest to NAM countries.

9. ***Call*** for an immediate end to the misuse of media for inciting and launching concerted campaigns against NAM members, including, inter alia, the hostile use of radio and electronic transmissions, which is contrary to the principles of international law.

10. ***Continue*** to strengthen the coordination of NAM efforts related to information and communication within the United Nations, including UNESCO, and other relevant international organizations and agencies. In this context, the Ministers took note of the Message of the NAM Chapter in UNESCO to COMINAC VII.

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Security Council
Sixty-third year

Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Economic and Social Council

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Culture of peace

The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

Macroeconomic policy questions

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

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Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

Social development

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Right of peoples to self-determination

Promotion and protection of human rights

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

General and complete disarmament

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the letter from H.E. Felipe Pérez Roque, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, to H.E. Masahiko Koumura, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries (G8), on the occasion of the 34th Summit of the aforesaid group (see annex).

This letter conveys to the presidency of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries and to the rest of the leaders of the G8, the viewpoints and positions of the Non-Aligned Movement on issues of particular relevance and priority to its membership, including those to be raised right at the 34th Summit that is taking place in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan.

I kindly request that the enclosed document be circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 17, 18, 32, 33, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 62, 64, 69, 70, 71, 85, 86, 87, 98, 99, 100, 104, 108, 116, 121 and 123, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Havana, 1 July 2008

Following the practice established several years ago by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), I address this letter to you in my capacity as Chair of this grouping and on behalf of the 118 countries comprising it. First of all, I wish to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries (G8) and make my best wishes for a successful 34th Summit in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan.

I have the honour to convey to you, and through you to the rest of the leaders of the G8, the viewpoints and positions of NAM on issues of particular relevance and priority for its members, especially those that will be addressed at the 34th G8 Summit. Previous NAM messages to past G8 Summits, along with position papers officially submitted by NAM to the United Nations General Assembly comprise the catalogue of positions of our countries vis-à-vis priority issues on the international agenda.

At the XIV Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Havana, Cuba, in September 2006, the leaders of the non-aligned countries decided to create, expand and deepen more dynamic relations and cooperation with the developed and industrialized countries, particularly with the G-8. The Summit in Havana underscored that such cooperation must be profoundly based on mutual respect and benefits, shared and differentiated responsibility, constructive commitment and dialogue, broad-based partnership and real interdependency, with a view to drafting responses or initiatives on world issues and facilitating greater understanding between the North and the South.

The objective is to ensure that the opinions of the developing countries are fully heeded before the developed countries make decisions on matters affecting the countries of the South and the international community as a whole. It is for these reasons that I address this letter to you, in your capacity as the representative of the country chairing the Group of Eight, in the hope that the views and concerns of NAM are duly taken into account by the leaders of G8 in the Hokkaido Toyako Summit.

We are aware that during the Japanese chair of the G8, your country intends to expand and promote concrete initiatives relative to issues of particular relevance on the international agenda, as the environment and the Cool Earth 50, an initiative by Japan to establish an effective framework beyond 2012, taking into consideration compatibility between environment protection and economic growth; the promotion of efforts by the international community towards achieving the MDGs, focusing on health, water and education; sustainable development of the world economy, investments, trade, strengthening intellectual property, access to raw materials and Africa's economic development; among other issues of great interest and priority for NAM.

In assessing the international situation, the Movement believes that the current world scenario poses great challenges in the fields of peace and security, economic development and social progress, human rights and the rule of law. That underpins the renewal of the

international community's commitment to the ratification and defense of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of International Law.

Among others, these include the ongoing lack of resources and the underdevelopment of most of the world, the lack of cooperation and the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by some developed countries, the excessive influence exerted by the rich countries in determining the nature, direction and rules of international relations, including economic and trading relations, many of which are put in place at the expense of developing countries.

Underdevelopment, poverty, hunger and marginalization have been further aggravated as a result of the ongoing process of globalization, worsening the structural imbalances and the inequities that affect the international economic order. The security and well-being of our nations are confronted with unprecedented challenges.

There is also a great deal of concern about the recent use of unilateralism and the measures imposed on a unilateral basis, which undermine the Charter of the United Nations and International Law. Therefore, the Movement has reiterated its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process under the auspices of the United Nations, with strict adherence to its Charter and to International Law, in order to build a just and equitable world order and world democratic governance, and not one based on the monopoly of a handful of wealthy nations.

To the Movement, its founding principles retain their full validity. There is a need to promote the goal of creating a multipolar world order, based on respect for the application of the principles of International Law and the UN Charter and the reinforcement of multilateralism. To that end, the Movement has set as objectives to defend peace and security and settle all international disputes by peaceful means; to promote and encourage sustainable development through international cooperation and, to that end, jointly coordinate the implementation of political strategies which strengthen and ensure the full participation of all countries, rich and poor, in the international economic relations, under equal conditions and opportunities but with differentiated responsibilities.

As basic principles, it is fundamental to ensure respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States; respect for the equality of rights of States, including the inalienable right of each State to determine freely its political, social, economic and cultural system, without any kind of interference whatsoever from any other State; No State or group of States has the right to intervene either directly or indirectly, whatever the motive, in the internal affairs of any other State; Rejection of unconstitutional change of Governments, Rejection of attempts at regime change and Condemnation of the use of mercenaries in all situations, especially in conflict situations; Refraining by all countries from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law.

The global food crisis compounded and reinforced as it is by the global financial crisis, the global energy crisis and the global climate crisis, is a major multi-dimensional challenge for development and the achievement of several of the millennium development goals.

The international community must continue to support the efforts of the developing countries aimed at integrating the principles of sustainable development into their national development strategies. We are pleased that one of the priorities of the German Presidency of the G-8 is the issue of climate change and energy efficiency.

The NAM emphasizes the need to undertake actions and adopt concrete measures at all levels in order to ensure the full implementation of Program 21 and the Johannesburg Implementation Program, in conformity with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities outlined in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development.

It is imperative to honor the commitments entered into at the international level to face environmental deterioration. The most recent scientific testimonies confirm that the future of our planet is threatened and bound to endure serious catastrophes on account of the effects of global climate change. There is no question that the main effect would be on the populations of the developing countries, which lack the necessary physical infrastructure and resources to cope with the impact of those real and increasingly closer dangers.

All States, particularly the industrialized nations, must take the necessary measures to reduce, in the agreed terms, their levels of emissions of greenhouse gases, responsible for the accelerated global warming. The initiatives aimed at transferring the burden of reduction from the developed countries to the developing nations would entail an evasion of international commitments and disregard for the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

Developing countries are being forced to choose between biodiversity protection and the sustainability of their agricultural and by extension, their economic development. What is frequently overlooked is the sober realization that agricultural reform in the majority of developing countries is not profit driven: it is foremost a question of survival. Over the past twelve months, global food prices have soared 40 percent, while food reserves are at 30-year lows. Linkages between biodiversity and climate change, fighting hunger and food production are crucial to achieving both the 2010 target and the MDGs.

We observe as a positive step the decision of the G8 environment ministers at their Kobe meeting, where they adopted, for the first time, a call for action for biodiversity and for making it a key item on the agenda of the upcoming G8 Summit. The Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity includes a road map for achieving the 2010 Target. It is vital that we work in the framework of truthful and genuine international multilateral cooperation, based on the principles of solidarity, complementation and mutual benefits.

On the issue of energy, the NAM highlights the urgency of diversifying the supply of energy by developing advanced technologies that contribute less contamination and are more efficient, accessible and cost-effective, particularly those technologies for the utilization of fossil fuels and renewable energy sources, including hydroelectric energy, transferring them to the developing countries under mutually agreed favorable conditions, including concessionary and preferential ones. Energy policies must underpin the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty. Also, the necessary search for alternative sources of energy must not compromise the fight against worldwide famine.

The Non-Aligned Movement is pleased with the emphasis that the G-8 Summit will put on Africa's economic development. We are concerned that the economic situation in Africa continues to be precarious despite the decisive role played by this continent and the African people in the world economy for centuries.

We recognize that in addressing the special needs of Africa, there must also be direct support for the programs that the African leaders have put in place in the context of the New

Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which embodies the collective determination and commitment of the African governments and peoples to take control of their future development and take on the pressing task of fighting poverty, guiding their countries down the path to sustainable socio-economic development.

In this sense, it is imperative that the international community, particularly the developed countries, increase the allocation of resources for the implementation of projects and programs identified in various sectors, cancel all the debts of the African countries, adopt practical measures for its immediate application and double Africa's development assistance, among other measures. That support is crucial to promote regional integration and development and for the attainment of the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, which are essential for Africa's sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Excellency,

It is also fitting to convey to you the positions and viewpoints of the Non-Aligned Movement on some of the fundamental issues on the international political agenda, to which we are convinced the G-8 also attaches top priority and which most certainly will be examined at the Summit in Hokkaido Toyako or in subsequent meetings during the Japanese Presidency.

The NAM is profoundly concerned about the existing difficult and complex situation in terms of international disarmament and security, and has urged the international community to renew its efforts with a view to ending the current stalemate and achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects.

The Movement has reiterated the threat posed to humanity by the permanent existence of nuclear weapons and its possible use or threat to use them. In this sense, it has highlighted the need for the nuclear States to honour the unequivocal commitment that they entered into in 2000 to work towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The non-aligned countries continue to be profoundly concerned about the existence of strategic defense doctrines that not only bring about justifications to the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons but that also uphold unjustifiable concepts on international security based on the promotion and development of military alliances and policies of nuclear deterrence. They have also reiterated that the improvement of the existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of these weapons by certain nuclear powers violate the commitments entered into by the nuclear States during the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The NAM reiterates its commitment to the successful outcome of the 8th Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010 – and expresses its willingness to work together with the G-8 countries in accomplishing this objective, both at the Review Conference itself and during the preparatory process that started in 2007.

On the related issue of nuclear technology, the NAM reaffirms the fundamental and inalienable right of all States to develop the research, production and utilization of nuclear energy with peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with their respective legal obligations.

The Movement recognizes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the only authority competent to verify the fulfilment of the obligations entered into under the respective safeguards agreements of the Member States and emphasizes that there must not be any undue pressure or interference in the body's activities that may jeopardize its efficiency and credibility.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the NAM's best wishes for a successful G-8 Summit and the Japanese Presidency, while conveying the Movement's willingness to consider the most viable options to facilitate and increase a fruitful dialogue and exchange between both groupings, enabling developing countries to voice their interests and concerns so that these are taken into account before decisions are made that affect them directly.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity, Excellency, to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Felipe Pérez Roque
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Cuba

United Nations A/62/903

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 63
Advancement of women

Letter dated 2 July 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of the Niger and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We have the honour to write to you regarding the Third International Meeting Africa-Spain "Women for a Better World", held in Niamey on 12 and 13 May 2008.

The meeting was organized by the Network of Women for a Better World, an initiative launched by several African Governments and institutions together with the Government of Spain, with the aim of promoting development projects that may contribute to the advancement of women in Africa.

As was the case with the previous gatherings of the Network of Women for a Better World — held in Maputo (2006) and Madrid (2007) — the meeting of Niamey provided an opportunity for exchanging experiences and proposing ideas in order to promote a wider participation of women in areas such as education, politics, culture, justice, the economy, media or social movements, thus contributing to the development of the African continent.

The result of these debates has been reflected in the document of conclusions of the meeting, the Niamey Declaration, enclosed with this letter in its English, French and Spanish versions (see annex). We request that it be distributed to Member States as a document of the General Assembly, in connection with item 63 of its agenda.

(*Signed*) Aboubacar Ibrahim **Abani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Niger

(*Signed*) Juan Antonio **Yáñez-Barnuevo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain

08-41762 (E) 110708

Annex to the letter dated 2 July 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of the Niger and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Women for a Better World: Niamey Declaration

We, women of Africa and Spain participating in the *3rd Meeting of Women for a Better World* held in Niamey on 12 and 13 May 2008, distinguished representatives in the areas of politics, education, culture, justice, provision of basic social services, the economy, the media, parliaments, development agencies, international relations, and social and citizens' movements;

Aware of the fact that the development and future of Africa is directly linked to the empowerment of its women and respect for their rights;

Giving continuity to the 2006 and 2007 Declarations of Mozambique and Madrid on women and development;

Recognizing the advances made over these two years in promoting this joint initiative;

Determined to establish and promote new opportunities for cooperation, networking and information sharing through ongoing and future African and Spanish initiatives;

Committed to ensuring compliance with the agreements reached by our respective governments, through regional and international instruments, on the goals of equity, development, and peace:

Wish to declare our firm commitment to making this new Declaration an effective instrument serving the agenda of women's issues in Africa. We will thus contribute to the consolidation of all women's rights and to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies, in line with the international commitments made in the CEDAW Declaration; the Beijing Platform for Action; United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security; the Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth Session; the Millennium Development Goals; and the African Union's Protocol on the Rights of Women and its Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality.

We, the women participating in this Third Meeting, hereby declare:

- That the agenda we have built during these years requires the focusing and coordination of efforts and proposals. This makes it important to move forward with a political agenda that is shared by governments, public and private institutions, civil society, and economic and social actors, all of which are key sectors for the development of a society.

- That good governance is a prerequisite for the development of a women's rights agenda.

- That laws and policies alone will not bring about more gender equality, unless they are combined with enforcement, specific programmes, and proper resource allocation.

- That for women to be aware of their full potential in the economic, social and political spheres, the practice of pernicious customs must be eliminated.

- That women's role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention must be recognized and supported, including the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

- That it is essential to support African civil society and women's networks to strengthen the promotion of economic, political and cultural rights.

- That the right to access posts of political and social responsibility and decision-making, is not just a right of all citizens, but rather an element that contributes to strengthening states and democracies, prioritizing women's problems in national political agendas.

- That to achieve the shared aim of promoting the wellbeing of African societies and to guarantee the rights, development and autonomy of women, the international community, the United Nations, and all multilateral agencies and bodies must be actively present.

- That, according to recent findings by the Spanish Government on healthcare systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, as part of its cooperation programmes, health promotion, and especially the reduction of infant and maternal mortality, should be a priority of their governments, as well as promoting initiatives for full compliance with sexual and reproductive rights.

- That Africa's economic development is very closely linked to training women through capacity building, integrating the social dimension into the economic agenda, supporting formal and informal economic activities and employment with rights in keeping with international labour regulations, and providing the chance for women to set up their own businesses.

- That it is essential to ensure women's access to resources, land, education, training, credit and market opportunities, because food security and proper nutrition for the entire population depend on them.

HENCE, WE HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. We shall develop, over the course of 2008, the Annual Action Plan of the Network of Spanish and African Women, approved by the Executive Committee and endowed with 1 million dollars, with which we shall put into effect actions supporting international campaigns against gender violence through women's organisations, joint actions to train educators in the areas of citizenship, peace and gender issues, and opening a debate between Spanish and African women's organizations through the Network's website.

2. With the aim of strengthening public policies for equality in African countries, Spain will take the lead, together with the United Nations, in creating a Multidonor Fund, through UNIFEM, for the promotion and financing of these gender equality policies.

3. We agree to establish, within the framework of the Fourth Meeting of Women for a Better World, an annual forum of African and Spanish women parliamentarians, who will promote new laws and regulations aiming to abolish abusive practices that violate women's rights.

4. We shall sign an Agreement with regional economic institutions, including the African Development Bank, before the end of 2008, which will make available five million dollars to fund African women's entrepreneurial initiatives and self-employment projects.

5. We commit to organizing, before the next Women's Meeting, an International Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health, with the participation of UNFPA and UNIFEM, governments, and Spanish and African women's organizations.

6. In 2009, we shall open a Training Centre in Mali, funded by the Spanish government, to provide capacity building for African governments and civil society. Moreover, the feasibility of similar centres in other African countries shall be studied.

7. We shall reach agreements between universities and scientific and cultural institutions to facilitate and promote cooperation in this area. Furthermore, through the Aulas Cervantes initiative, programmes for teaching Spanish shall be set up in several African universities. Specifically, before the next Meeting, one will open in Senegal, and subsequently in other countries.

8. Within the framework of the forthcoming Madrid International Contemporary Art Fair (ARCO 2009), priority shall be given to the presence of African women artists. In addition, to further Africa's cultural industry, an International Meeting of African Women Artists shall be organised in Casa Africa.

9. To strengthen democracy, contribute to better governance, and support democracy building in African countries, we shall develop, through the Women's Network and other African and Spanish institutions, courses to train managers and social, political and economic leaders for African governments and civil society.

10. In forthcoming months, we shall launch an Action Plan on Food Security and Global Warming and the Gender Dimensions of Climate Change and the Environment in Africa, proposed during the forum on this subject held in Niamey on 11 May 2008, focusing specially on women's projects.

All these commitments shall be evaluated at the Fourth Meeting, to be held in Namibia in 2009, and which will be continued at the Fifth Meeting in Valencia (Spain) in 2010, coinciding with the Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

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Security Council

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 16
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 8 July 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a statement of the Government of Georgia regarding the latest explosions in Georgia's region of Abkhazia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Chikovani**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

08-41994 (E) 140708

Annex to the identical letters dated 8 July 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Government of Georgia on explosions in the Gali District

7 July 2008

The last two days have seen a continuation of the recent series of explosions in Georgia's region of Abkhazia. Unfortunately the blast in the Gali district killed several citizens of Georgia. The Government of Georgia conveys its condolences to the families of the blast victims.

We condemn these and all previous acts of violence. It is a regrettable fact in the Abkhazian region — on the territory, which is outside the control of the central authorities, amid unlawfulness and negligence of the constitution, basic human rights, including the rights to life in dignity, to work, to free movement and to education, continue to be trampled on.

Those acts of violence are in the interests of forces hoping to prolong the presence of illegally deployed Russian military forces in Georgia; of forces resisting demilitarization and peace in the region and of those who want to derail Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

In order to prevent further escalation in the region, on condition of a withdrawal of the Russian military forces from the Ochamchire and Gali districts, the Georgian Government reiterates its readiness to establish there a joint local police force under international supervision, which will efficiently provide conditions for the protection of the fundamental rights of Georgian citizens.

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 113 (b)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Letter dated 2 July 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that, according to the rotation agreement within the Eastern European Group for membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Republic of Hungary is relinquishing its seat on the Governing Council as from 31 December 2008 for the remaining term, in favour of the Republic of Serbia starting on 1 January 2009.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 113 (b).

(*Signed*) **Kinga Simon**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

08-41965 (E) 110708